

April 2017
Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7



Largo High PTSA® *everychild.one voice.®*

President's Letter



Raising the next generation takes a village. Families, schools, and communities must work together for student success. We need to come together and be a powerful voice for ALL CHILDREN, a relevant resource for families and communities, and strong advocates for the education and well-being of every child.

In this newsletter, you will see some of what your LHS PTSA has been up to over the past month to try and reach those goals. One big event we participated in was the Florida PTA Legislative Conference in Tallahassee. We received advocacy training, spoke to Senators and Representatives, and participated in a Town Hall discussion called [Real Talk](#). It was an invigorating experience!

Also in this newsletter, you will find information on prevention programs and support for our children and families. During the entire month of April, your LHS PTSA is partnering with the LHS National Honor Society for a community service project. Please join us in this project by donating items (listed in detail below) to benefit children and teens in the foster care system.

In addition, we will be holding our final general meeting and program for this school year on Thursday, April 27th. A representative from the [Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force](#) will be presenting a program on Teen Dating Violence. I encourage you to invite your friends, even if their students do not attend Largo High, as this is a very informative program. Elections for next year's officers will be on the agenda as well. I hope you'll come join us for this final meeting of the 2016-2017 school year!

And finally, I want to thank you for being a part of PTA. It takes all of us! Parents, students, teachers, administrators, business and community members devoted to the educational success of all children and youth to help encourage them to reach their potential.

By being a part of PTA, you unite our efforts for every child, with one strong voice!

Michelle Alfred
Largo High PTSA | President
Strong Bonds...Bright Futures



Important Dates

April

- 1st - 30th - "First Night Bags" collection drive
- 14th - No School
- 15th - Prom, Gulfport Casino, 7-10pm
- 27th - PTSA Election Meeting

May

- 8 th - 12th - PTA Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week
- 9th - Appreciation Lunch after school
- 17th - LHS Graduation, Tropicana Field, 4pm
- 25th - Last Day of School

June

- 22nd-25th - NPTA Convention, Las Vegas, NV

July

- 13th-16th - FPTA Leadership Convention

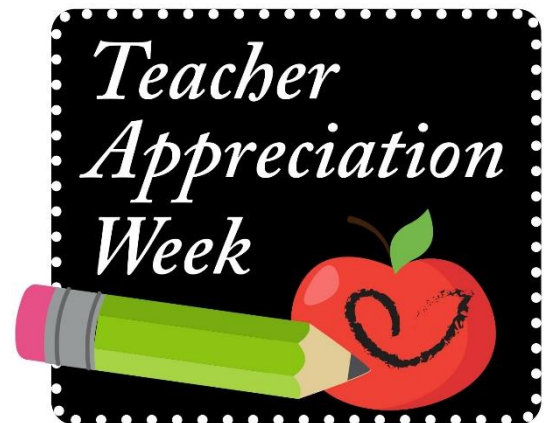
August

- 10th - First Day of School, 2017-2018

National PTA®

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Our Children is an online magazine for parents published by the National PTA. Today's PTA is dedicated to empowering parents to make a difference in the education, health, and safety of America's children. This is just one resource. More information on this publication can be found here: <http://ptaourchildren.org/>



We (PTA) will be hosting a luncheon on Tuesday, May 9th after school for all our LHS Faculty and Staff. Donations towards the cost of food, gifts, and door prizes are welcome.

They may be mailed to:

Largo High School, Attention: PTSA
410 Missouri Ave. N., Largo, 33770, or
dropped off in the front office.

PTA Reflections Program



A list of all the state level winners can be found here:
<http://floridapta.org/programs/reflections>

The PTA Reflections program is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students of all grades and abilities may participate and explore the arts based on the 2016-2017 theme: *What Is Your Story?* Students may enter in one or more of six categories: dance choreography, literature, musical composition, visual arts, photography, film production.

We are PTA Proud of our LHS students that participated in the Reflections program this year! We had four students advance to the county level, and three of those moved on to the state level judging. We are excited to announce that Cameron Leonard received an Award of Merit at the state level for his literature entry. Congratulations Cameron! He will be recognized on April 22nd, during the state awards ceremony, at our very own Largo High! Way to go Cameron!

A special thank you goes out to Ms. Shelton for encouraging her students to participate in this program!

Reach100%

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

By May 1st

It costs only \$5!

Become a PTSA student member and your name will be entered to win one of several prizes, including a chance to win FREE tickets to a Rays game!

Member #1 Name _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Circle One: Parent/Grandparent/Staff/Student/Community

_____ \$5 Student Memberships

_____ Total Enclosed (Cash or Checks made payable to LHS PTSA)

After completing the form above, please return it to the school office, or mail to: LHS PTSA, 410 Missouri Ave N, Largo, FL 33770, Attention: Membership.

OFFICE USE: AMT RECEIVED: _____ PAID BY: _____ CARD(S) ISSUED: _____

HELLO!

New Members!

May is National Foster Care Month

Each May, *National Foster Care Month* provides an opportunity for people across the nation to focus attention on the year-round needs of American children and youth in foster care. The campaign raises awareness about foster care and encourages many more citizens to get involved in the lives of these youth – whether as their foster parents, volunteers, mentors, employers or in other ways.

<http://www.nationalfostercare.org/national-foster-care-month.html>

Children placed in foster care may live in a number of possible settings which include kinship or relative's homes, family foster homes, treatment foster homes or group residential care. Regardless of where the children are placed, most leave their family home unexpectedly with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. Sadly, their journey does not always end at the first setting they are placed in, and as they move it is common for a trash bag to become their suitcase.

Largo High PTSA is proud to partner with the LHS National Honor Society in sponsoring a 'First Night Bag' collection drive for the month of April. Donating to this important cause is a way for the Largo High community to become involved in the lives of foster children. Receiving a First Night Bag filled with essential items will bring comfort to a child or teen who is in a frightening situation their first night in unfamiliar surroundings.

Please see the list below and consider donating to this important cause, especially a duffel bag, if you are able. A child whose trash bag is replaced with a duffel bag will go from feeling worthless to worthy.



A Trash Bag Should NEVER be a Child's Suitcase

Kids do not ask to come into the foster care system; they are brought there as victims. Kids entering foster care often have only the clothes on their backs, seldom have a toothbrush, and carry the few belongings they have in a trash bag. The process can be very traumatic and leave them feeling less than human. Help us make the process a little easier and donate items from the list below.

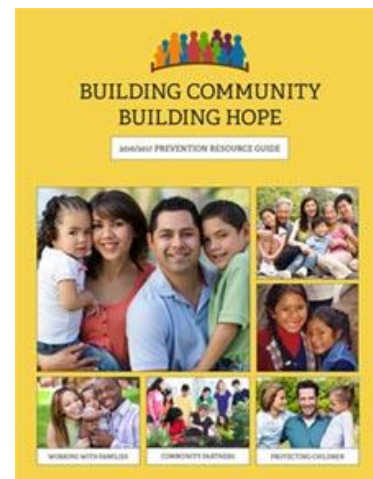
Suggested Items:

- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Small flashlight (with batteries)
- Deodorant
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Comfort item (small blanket, stuffed animal)
- Pajamas or comfy socks/slippers
- Small book
- Small notebook/journal/drawing pad
- Pens/pencils/colored pencils
- Duffel bag or decorative re-useable shopping bag

Donation boxes will be in the Front Office and Resource Center

All items will be donated to the Pinellas County Foster & Adoptive Parent Association in May.





April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I was shocked and saddened to read the prevalence and the need to have such a month. Child abuse includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse done to a child, or child neglect. In 2012, per the Department of Health and Human Services, almost one in every one hundred children in the United States was abused. Seventy five percent of those cases involved neglect, where the child's basic needs were not met. Thankfully, the prevalence is decreasing. Teachers are often the first to recognize victims and are instrumental in getting help.

There are some valuable resources and information provided by the Department of Health and Human Services on their website, [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#). Topics include the prevention of child abuse and neglect, identifying the signs and symptoms, and responding to child abuse and neglect.

A free guide that provides information about prevention is the [2016/2017 Prevention Resource Guide: Building Community, Building Hope](#).

This guide is a joint product of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, and the FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention.

An active local resource we have been fortunate to partner with is a group called B.A.C.A., Bikers Against Child Abuse. This organization has been active at our school. B.A.C.A.'s mission is to create a safer environment for abused children. B.A.C.A. works in conjunction with reporting agencies and provides physical and emotional support for frightened children. To find out more about them, visit their website at www.bacaworld.org.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. Everyone can take steps to make communities more supportive of families!

Keith Sargent
Largo High PTSA | Advocacy Chair

YOUR LHS PTSA IN ACTION

Advocate? Why? For whom you ask? For our children, our parents, and our teachers! Your LHS PTSA went to Tallahassee to visit with Senator Farmer, Representative Smith, Senator Latvala and Governor Scott's Chief of Staff, Kim McDougal to name a few. We discussed various bills, funding & budget cuts. We participated in a community forum, called "RealTalk" and attended Florida PTA advocacy training. All of this is advocating...and we do it for your children, because All Children Are Our Children!





THURSDAY, APRIL 27

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

A PROGRAM TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR SUPPORT AND PREVENTION OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE.

Attend this program and gain a better understanding of Teen Dating Violence, as presented by the Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force. Parents, students, educators, and the community are invited to attend and learn more about this widespread issue. Learn why dating violence is a public health problem; how it affects the health and well-being of our youth; who is at risk; and what we can do to prevent dating violence.

A 2013 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found approximately 10% of high school students reported physical victimization and 10% reported sexual victimization from a dating partner in the 12 months before they were surveyed.

**KNOW THE FACTS, KNOW THE STATS,
 KNOW YOUR CHILD.**

DATING ABUSE



Largo High
PTSA
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**PTSA MEETING
 THURSDAY, APRIL 27TH
 6:30PM
 RESEARCH CENTER**

**JOIN US FOR OUR
 LAST MEETING
 OF THE 2016-2017
 SCHOOL YEAR!**

**ELECTIONS FOR NEXT
 YEAR'S PTSA OFFICERS
 WILL BE HELD PRIOR TO
 THE PROGRAM.**

**HOSPITALITY - 6:15PM
 PIZZA WILL BE SERVED
 TO CELEBRATE THIS
 YEAR'S SUCCESSES!**

LARGO HIGH PTSA
 410 MISSOURI AVENUE
 LARGO, 33770

For more information:
ptsalargohigh@gmail.com



Nominating Committee Report



Your LHS PTSA Nominating Committee would like to announce the slate of officers for next year's board (2017-2018 school year).

President – Michelle Alfred

Vice President – Anjanette Ellwood

Treasurer – Debbie Stotts

Recording Secretary – OPEN

Nominations are still open for the Recording Secretary position. If you, or someone you know, would like to submit their name for consideration, please send an email to ptsalargohigh@gmail.com, and put "Nomination" in the subject line. Nominations from the floor will be open for all positions the night of the election, Thursday, April 27th.



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 Volume 1, Issue 7
 Newsletter Chair, Maria Black
 President, Michelle Alfred



Email: ptsalargohigh@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/ptsalargohigh/
 Webpage: www.pcsb.org/domain/7851